UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 4/15/64

FROM : A. Rosen

John F.

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

In accordance with the request of the President's Commission, Bureau personnel, including Mr. Shaneyfelt of the Laboratory, Mr. Gauthier of the Exhibits Section, and Mr. Malley, were present at which time certain slides printed from the Abraham Zapruder movie film depicting the assassination of President Kennedy, which were obtained by the Bureau from "Life" magazine, were shown. Also present at the Commission office were the following:

Commander James J. Humes, Director of Laboratories, Navy Medical School, U. S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland;

Commander J. Thornton Boswell, Chief Pathologist, U. S. Navy Medical School, Bethesda;

Colonel Pierre A. Finck, Chief of Wound Ballistics, Pathology Branch of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D. C.;

Dr. A. G. Olivier, Chief of Wound Ballistics Branch, Edgewood Arsenal;

Dr. F. W. Light, Jr., Deputy Chief, Biophysics Division and Chief of Wound Assessment Branch, Edgewood Arsenal.

The purpose of the showing of this film, as it developed during the meeting, was to give the doctors present an opportunity to see the actual movie of the shooting of the President as well as the slides which had been made which were much clearer than the actual movies. The Commission desired the doctors present in order to obtain from them their views concerning the actual manner in which the President was shot.

62-109060-2933

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Gauthier

JRM:mpd (9)

APR 20 1964

PLH ITEM #685

Memo to Mr. Belmont from Rosen
Re: Assassination of President

Please know how to spell Gov. Connally's name.

During this session Commander James J. Humes advanced the theory that the first shot entered the President's body in the rear in the neck region a few inches below the head and followed a pattern through the neck and exited in the front without encountering any bone or other objects which slowed the bullet to any degree. Commander Humes was of the opinion the bullet continued and struck Governor Connally in the back on the right-hand side below the shoulder and exited on the right-hand side of Governor Connally in the chest area. Commander Humes stated that here again, based on medical reports received from doctors in Texas who examined Governor Connally, the bullet met with no serious obstruction and passed through the body, merely grazing one of the rib bones. It was Commander Humes' opinion that the bullet from the first shot apparently lodged in some manner in the clothing of Governor Connally and this bullet is the one which was found on the stretcher on which Governor Connally was brought to Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas. Commander Humes states this bullet was not damaged in any way and it is for this reason he feels that the first shot definitely passed through both the body of the President and Governor Connally.

In explaining his feelings concerning this theory, Commander Humes stated that another shot is believed to have hit the right wrist of Governor Connally with such an impact that it caused the bullet to break into many fragments and he noted that many fragments were found in the right wrist area of Governor Connally as well as in the thigh of the left leg.

Relative to the third shot which was fired, which based on the photographic material available is believed to be the one which hit the President's head, Commander Humes advised that there is no question that this bullet separated into many fragments upon impact and many fragments were found in the skull area of the President. He noted that one fragment had apparently struck the front windshield from the inside inasmuch as the examination of the windshield did detect some lead deposit where an object had struck the inside of the windshield. Commander Humes states that the fragment which struck the windshield could have been from this shot which struck the President's head or could have been a fragment from the shot which hit Governor Connally's wrist.

The other doctors present did not completely confirm the theory of Commander Humes but felt, based on their review of the pictures, noting the movements of Governor Connally in the President's automobile and the general location of the occupants in the car, that there was a possibility this theory was correct.

Staff members of the Commission gave no indication what additional action they planned relative to this theory. It is noted that any comments made in the past by the Bureau relative to the shots that struck the President and Governor Connally were based completely on medical reports furnished the Bureau by Doctors at Parkland Hospital and the results of the autopsy of the U. S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland.

ENCLOSURE

The foregoing is submitted for information.

PLH ITEM #685